

# Biographical Information on the Speakers



Regional Economic Forecast for Southern California  
2005-2006



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS



**Ron Roberts**

***President, Southern California Association of Governments  
Councilmember, City of Temecula***

Ron Roberts is a Councilmember of the City of Temecula, California where he has served since 1992, and has previously served as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem from 1993-2002. He has served for the Southern California Association of Governments in various capacities such as the Regional Council Executive Board, the Maglev Task Force, 91 Express Lanes Advisory Committee and the Administrative Committee. He also previously chaired SCAG's Transportation and Communications Policy Committee.

Roberts is currently a member of the League of Cities Public Safety Committee, Executive Committee (Riverside Division), and Transportation and Communications Committee. Roberts also serves on the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA/Metrolink) Board of Directors and the SCAQMD Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

Ron Roberts has established his key objectives to innovate methods of growth and encourage business development. He would like to streamline government regulations for business and speed up city processing time whenever possible.

Roberts is a retired California Highway Patrol Sergeant and received an Associate of Arts from Mt. San Antonio College.



**Eric Garcetti**

***Councilmember, City of Los Angeles***

Councilmember Eric Garcetti represents Los Angeles' Thirteenth District, comprising the communities of Hollywood, Silver Lake, Echo Park, Atwater Village, Elysian Valley, Glassell Park, Temple-Beverly, Thai Town, Little Armenia, and Filipino Town.

Eric was sworn into office on June 15th, 2001, one of the youngest council members elected in the city's history. He serves on the Council's leadership as Assistant President Pro Tempore. He chairs the council's Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee, and is the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Quality Committee and the Ad

Hoc River Committee. He also serves on the Budget and Finance and the Information Technology and General Services Committees.

As the Chair of the Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee, Councilmember Garcetti has promoted affordable housing, strengthened youth intervention programs, community and senior centers, and overseen the expansion of after-school programs. He also authored legislation that created and funded year-round homeless shelters in Los Angeles. The Hollywood Community Housing Corporation honored him for his advocacy of affordable housing. Through the committee and in his district, Councilmember Garcetti has fought to expand job training, protect and promote living wage and union jobs, and reduce and streamline business taxes. He has pushed for responsible community redevelopment projects, helped attract entertainment industry jobs back to Hollywood, and spearheaded a No Sweat Ordinance to build on the City's Responsible Contractor Ordinance by eliminating scofflaw, poverty-wage companies from city contracts.





**Mark A. Pisano**

***Executive Director,  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)***

Mark Pisano directs the activities of the Southern California Association of Governments, the nation's largest regional planning agency. The counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura, and cities within these counties, are members of the Association. The purpose of this voluntary association of local governments is to provide an open forum where region-wide problems can be explored and comprehensive plans dealing with air and water quality, transportation, regional growth and development, housing, and other areas critical to the region can be developed.

Prior to joining SCAG in November 1976, Mr. Pisano was director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Planning Division. For several years, Mr. Pisano was responsible for developing policy on implementation of the nation's water quality management process, including basin and facility planning and wastewater management programs. He previously served as an economist with the Environmental Protection Agency.

A Ph.D. candidate at Georgetown University, Mr. Pisano was a lecturer there during the summers of 1970 and 1971. He is also the author of numerous papers, speeches, and articles on such subjects as economics, growth, transportation, water quality, and governance.



**Steven Levy**

***Director and Senior Economist  
Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy***

Stephen Levy is director and senior economist of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy (CCSCE) in Palo Alto. CCSCE is a private research organization founded in 1969 to provide an independent assessment of economic and demographic trends in California.

CCSCE works with private companies and public institutions that require an explanation and analysis of the growth process as well as detailed projections. Mr. Levy is the principal author of CCSCE's annual report series on the California's economy. CCSCE annual reports have acquired a national reputation for credible and independent analysis.

Mr. Levy is currently helping regional planning agencies in Southern California and Sacramento address the challenges of planning for future growth, providing long-term regional projections of jobs, population, households income. CCSCE provides long-term economic and demographic projections to such institutions as the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), The Irvine Company and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. For the coming year, Mr. Levy will be writing and speaking about the California budget and economy and will be analyzing California's regional economies for the California Workplace Investment Board and California Economic Strategy Panel. He recently completed a report on workforce investment issues and challenges and has spent the last year presenting the report around the state.

Mr. Levy has degrees in economics from MIT and Stanford University.



**Keith McCarthy**

***Councilmember, City of Downey***

First elected to the City Council in 1996, Keith McCarthy is serving his second and final term as a Councilmember. McCarthy served as Mayor in 1999 and 2000.

Keith has also been active in Downey's residents in a variety of associations. Currently, Keith serves as a member of Regional Council of Southern California Association of Governments and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Keith served as a former President of Gateway Cities Council of Governments and Chairman of Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board.

Keith and his wife Katrin are raising six children in Downey. In addition to his role as a civic leader and parent, Keith is the President and General Manager of a small business. When he has a spare moment, you might find Keith rollerblading through the City or along the San Gabriel River bicycle path.



**Anil K. Puri, Ph.D.**

***Dean, College of Business and Economics,  
California State University Fullerton***

Dr. Anil K. Puri is Dean of the College of Business and Economics and Co-Director of the Institute for Economic and Environmental Studies at California State University, Fullerton. Cal State Fullerton's College of Business and Economics is the second largest accredited business school in the nation, and the largest in California. Dr. Puri also serves as Executive Vice President of the Western Economic Association International, the second largest professional association of economists in the U.S., and is a panel member of the National Association of Business Economists' Survey of Economic

Conditions. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Puri's research interests are in the areas of regional and environmental economics, and he has developed large-scale economic models of Orange County and Southern California used to produce economic forecasts for these areas. He has also been the principal researcher for several major grants in the public and private sectors, and his research has been published in leading academic journals.



**Lisa Grobar, Ph.D.**

***Director, Economic Forecast Project,  
California State University Long Beach***

Dr. Lisa Grobar is director of the Economic Forecast Project and Associate Director of the Office of Economic Research at California State University, Long Beach. She is a professor of economics and has been a member of the CSULB faculty since 1989.

Dr. Grobar's research has appeared in "Contemporary Economic Policy," "Journal of Developmental Economics," "Growth and Change," and numerous other publications. Her recent research has focused on issues relevant to the economy of California,

examining such topics as the growth of the Internet economy in Southern California, the increasing use of temporary workers in California, export-oriented employment in Southern California, and the dynamics of the California labor market during the recession of the early 1990's.

Dr. Grobar received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1989. Her areas of specialization include regional economics and international trade.



**Dr. Mark Schniepp**

***Director, California Economic Forecast Project***

Dr. Mark Schniepp has prepared long-term and short-term projections of economic and demographic activity at the county and state levels. He has 20 years of experience in economic analysis of regional modeling, forecasting, and developing analytical methods to evaluate the economic and financial impacts of alternative projects or policies on local communities.

Dr. Schniepp prepares the annual Orange County Economic Outlook together with the UCLA Anderson Forecast each year in November. Dr. Schniepp also prepares an annual forecast for the Southern California economy for the UCLA Anderson Forecast Project.

Dr. Schniepp is currently Director of the California Economic Forecast in Santa Barbara. The Company prepares a 58 County economic forecast for the California Department of Transportation. The Company has developed a large California County level economic and demographic database.

Dr. Schniepp served as senior economist to Kathleen Connell, the California State Controller, from 1999 to 2003. He prepared a commentary on the California economy four times a year in the periodical: The Controller's Quarterly, and maintained a database and forecast models of the California economy used to produce revenue projections for the state. Dr. Schniepp was Director of the Economic Forecast Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara, between 1982 and 2000.

As a past member of the faculty of the Department of Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Dr. Schniepp taught intermediate micro-economic and macroeconomic theory, applied regional modeling, applied econometrics, and forecasting, 1979-1990. He also taught regional modeling in the Department of Geography at UCSB. Dr. Schniepp received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1981. His fields of research for the degree were econometrics, regional economics, and natural resource economics.



**James Flanigan**

***Senior Economics Editor, Los Angeles Times***

James Flanigan, Los Angeles Times Senior Economics Editor and business columnist, has covered national and international business and economics for 38 years. He has focused on every aspect of business and finance and examined in major articles the economies of countries stretching from Europe to Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. His column, which appears Sunday and Monday or another weekday in The Times, is syndicated to such papers as the Houston Chronicle and Columbus Dispatch and newspapers in Mexico, Japan, Korea, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and other countries. Flanigan started as a financial journalist at the New York Herald Tribune in 1963-having joined there seven years earlier while attending college.

During 16 years with Forbes Magazine, he served as bureau chief in Washington, Los Angeles, London and Houston and later in New York as assistant managing editor. Flanigan who was born in New York City is a history and English graduate of Manhattan College. Flanigan is the recipient of many awards, among them, the Los Angeles Times Editorial Awards for Analysis or Explanatory Journalism, World Economic Crisis Stories; Greater Los Angeles Press Club Award for Business/Financial column; and the John Hancock Award for Excellence in Business and Financial Journalism. Flanigan earned his BA at Manhattan College. He has two adult children, was widowed and has married again.



**John Husing, Ph.D.**

***President, Economics and Politics, Inc.***

Dr. John Husing is the leading authority on the city & county economies of the Inland Empire, a topic he first began studying in 1964 with his doctoral thesis at Claremont Graduate University. For the past 38 years, Dr. Husing has maintained an extensive database documenting the economic forces affecting Riverside and San Bernardino counties. He uses these data, his political acumen and extensive knowledge of the area to explain its economic strength to executives and policy makers throughout Southern California. He is also a constant voice promoting and explaining the important political and economic issues facing this inland region.

Dr. Husing's firm, Economics & Politics, Inc. has a single mission: to raise the Inland Empire's standard of living. The company is a major source of information for public and private entities trying to understand the Inland Empire. His reports to cities and counties impart demographic data as well as comprehensive strategies for improving their economies. He has produced the Inland Empire Quarterly Economic Report for 14 years and is a monthly front page columnist for The Business Press.



**Steve Erie**

***Professor of Political Science, University of California, San Diego***

Steven P. Erie, who received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from UCLA, is a Professor of Political Science at UC San Diego, Director of UCSD's Urban Studies and Planning Program, and a Senior Fellow at USC's Southern California Studies Center. His most recent book *Globalizing L.A.: Trade, Infrastructure, and Regional Development* was published by Stanford University Press in March, 2004.

Erie's recent research has focused upon the global linkages connecting Southern California, Mexico and the Pacific Rim. He is the author of two California Policy Research Center studies on these subjects: *Paths to Political Incorporation for Latinos and Asian Pacifics in California* (1993); and *International Trade and Job Creation in Southern California: Facilitating Los Angeles/Long Beach Port, Rail, and Airport Development* (1996).

He is an authority on the region's trade infrastructure. His studies include *Facing the Challenges of Expanding Southern California's Global Gateways*; *Toward a Trade Infrastructure Strategy for the San Diego/Tijuana Region*; *A New Orange County Airport at El Toro: An Economic Benefits Study*, and *A New Orange County Airport at El Toro: Catalyst for High-Wage, High-Tech Development*; and studies of the LAX Master Plan, international airport and high-speed rail planning.

Erie is actively involved in public policy debates in the state and region on issues of infrastructure, regional development, trade, governance, and public finance. He is a consultant to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, the Orange County Business Council, and RAND.



**Sunne Wright McPeak — Keynote Speaker**

***California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary***

As Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Sunne Wright McPeak directs California's largest government agency. Her 16 departments include such complex organizations as Caltrans, the CHP, DMV, and the Department of Corporations. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed her to the cabinet-level post in November 2003.

Ms. McPeak was formerly President and CEO of the Bay Area Council. During her tenure at the Bay Area Council, Ms. McPeak established and led major regional initiatives that addressed policy challenges involving transportation, housing, sustainable economic development, water policy, telecommunications infrastructure, and education and workforce preparation.

Prior to joining the Bay Area Council in November of 1996, Ms. McPeak served for three years as President and CEO of the Bay Area Economic Forum, a partnership formed in 1988 by the Bay Area Council and the Association of Bay Area Governments to facilitate public-private collaboration for promoting the regional economy. Before the Bay Area Economic Forum, Ms. McPeak was a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors for more than 15 years. As a Supervisor, she became known as a leader on State water policy and also was one of the earliest advocates for promoting regional solutions to Bay Area policy challenges.